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Dr W. Junk, The Hague
- Hugo Reiss, 7 Stuttgart 1, Traubenstrasse 15B1.
Dr Günther Reiss, 7 Stuttgart-Vaihingen, Barchet 23.

New Forest Mercury Vapour Light Records for 1972

By L. W. SIGGS

Another disappointing year for numbers of lepidoptera visiting the Minstead trap.

	Nights	Specimens		Species Average
		Total	Average	
March	20	1296	65	9
April	30	2250	75	9
May	31	648	21	8
June	30	910	30	16
July	31	5470	176	50
August	31	3584	116	40
September	26	1800	69	19
October	26	1443	55	16
November	11	540	49	8

Comparison with the average daily catch over the 10 years may be of interest:—

	1962-71	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1962-5
March	48	62	13	20	74	61	78	45
April	114	110	92	101	99	69	73	151
May	44	33	76	33	50	30	24	49
June	158	76	343	84	179	125	107	166
July	254	181	209	190	—	226	199	321
August	238	202	242	272	232	175	297	240
September	116	81	72	157	130	90	95	135
October	54	49	35	62	—	45	38	65
November	23	21	32	14	15	23	22	27

It will be noted that there is a great deal of variation. This is probably due to weather conditions, i.e. temperature, especi-

ally at night, humidity and wind. The minimum night temperature for June 1970 was 10°C and for 1972 7.5°C. The average catch was 343 and 30 respectively. The largest catch in 1972 was on 21st July with 787 specimens of 104 species, when the maximum day temperature was 24°C and the minimum night temperature was 16°C.

A comparison of 1972 with the 10-year averages shows that numbers were up in March and November, average in October, but down in all other months. We had a warm, sunny spell in the second half of March, but the high November figure was due to three special nights, 243 on 2nd with a minimum temperature of 8°C after a sunny afternoon and misty evening; 102 on 5th with a minimum temperature of 12°C, a new moon and some drizzle; and 85 on 6th with a minimum of 12°C. For the rest of the year, the weather was notoriously poor with nights colder than usual.

It is not surprising that most species came in far fewer numbers than usual. On the other hand, the fact that 10 species showed a "best ever" record in 1972 suggested further analysis. With two exceptions, the larvae hibernate and presumably have benefitted from the rather mild weather during the past winters. The figures for the eight hibernators are:—

	1972	Previous best since 1961
<i>Cybosia mesomella</i> L.	120	79
<i>Idaea (Sterrha) aversata</i> L.	225	193
<i>Polia nebulosa</i> Hufn.	125	42
<i>Ourapteryx sambucaria</i> L.	47	31
<i>Hemithea aestivaria</i> Hübn.	63	27
<i>Apamea caracterea</i> Hübn. (<i>epomidion</i> Haw.)	16	9
<i>Campaea margaritata</i> L.	93	51
<i>Thera variata</i> Schiff.	50	40

Of the two exceptions, *Lomospilis marginata* L. 283 (198), had an influx of 89 specimens in 4 consecutive days in July, but I can suggest no reason for *Euplexia lucipara* L. 44 (19).

There were four additions to the Minstead list:—

Tethea or Schiff.

Perizoma (Colostygia) didymata L.

Hepialus hecta L.

Elaphria (Hapalotis) venustula Hübn.

The following species, which are not common here, were recorded:—*Agrotis vestigialis* Hufn., *Polia bombycina* Hufn. (*nitens* Haw.), *Cerapteryx graminis* L., *Arenostola phragmitidis* Hübn., *Apamea ophiogramma* Esp., *Cucullia asteris* Schiff., *Catocala nupta* L., *Polychrysis moneta* F., *Scopula imitaria* Hübn., *Larentia clavaria* Haw., *Pelurga comitata* L., *Eupithecia tenuiata* Hbn., *Cleorodes lichenaria* Hufn., *Selidosema brunnearia* Vill.

The local colony of *Lithophane leautieri* Boisd. has prospered; 31 were recorded. *Oeoegia (Procus) versicolor* Borkh., a recent novelty here, is flourishing with 15 recorded this year.

MIGRANTS. Worse than ever!

Lithosia quadra L. (5), *Agrotis ipsilon* Hufn. (13), *Lycophotia (Peridroma) porphyrea* Schiff. (4), *Autographa (Plusia) gamma* L. (73), *Nomophila noctuella* Schiff. (1), *Palpita unionalis* Hübn., (1), *Plutella xylostella* L. (*maculipennis* Curt.) (1).

POLYMORPHISM.

<i>Biston betularia</i> L.		<i>Idaea (Sterrha) aversata</i> L.	
typical	103 (80%)	<i>remutata</i>	168 (75%)
<i>carbonaria</i>	15 (12%)	<i>aversata</i>	57 (25%)
<i>insularia</i>	10 (8%)		

Eilema griseola Hübn. (typical 8, *flava* 1)

Alcis repandata L. (typical 88, *conversaria* 6)

Ectropis bistortata Goeze (*biundularia* Borkh.) (typical 11, *melanic* 1)

The great bonus of the season was the appearance of *Ourapteryx sambucaria* L. ab. *olivacea* Standfuss (see *Ent. Rec.*, **84**: 248) and *Timandra griseata* Petersen (*amata* sensu auct.) ab. *nigra* Rebel. (see *Ent. Rec.*, **84**: 241.)

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Sungate, Football Green, Minstead, Lyndhurst, Hants.

Warwickshire and Beyond, 1972

By DAVID BROWN

Although most collectors will agree that the 1972 weather was poor and moths few, here in Warwickshire I had a quite remarkable season for I discovered on my doorstep good colonies of three very rare species for the county, *Xylomyges conspicillaris* L., *Arenostola fluxa* Hubn and *Trichopteryx polycommata* Schiff. *Fluxa* was indeed a new species entirely for the County list.

The season commenced at Charlecote on the mild night of January 22nd when my M.V. trap produced 4 *Phigalia pilosaria* Schiff and one *Conistra ligula* Esp.

During February I was, no doubt like many others, prevented from running my M.V. trap due to the coal strike and consequent call for economy in the use of power. As it happened weather conditions at this time were far too cold for anything to be on the wing.

On the 16th March I spotted my first butterflies of the year — 2 *Aglais urticae* L. enjoying the spring sunshine in Victoria Park, Lemington Spa. I paid my usual spring visit to Ryton